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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council demands immediate cease-fire in Rwanda, warning that population exodus threatens regional stability; urges resumption of political process in framework of Arusha Agreement.

+ UNHCR appeals to parties in Rwanda to ensure safety of displaced people so that aid can reach them in that country; agency struggles to cope after 100,000 people cross into Zaire overnight.

+ High Commissioner for Human Rights condemns expulsion of MICIVIH by de facto authorities in Haiti; cites Rwanda as proof of need for rapid United Nations response to rights violations.

+ Secretary-General says that despite end of recent fighting, Yemen's problems will only be solved through political dialogue; says firm action is needed to tackle looting and lawlessness in Aden.

+ Secretary-General recommends that Security Council authorize expanded and strengthened UNOMIG for six months.

+ Special Committee on Decolonization hears reports of continuing human rights abuses by Indonesian authorities in East Timor; Indonesia says Committee's consideration of Territory is unwarranted.

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The Security Council today demanded an immediate and unconditional cease-fire in Rwanda, expressing alarm at the continued fighting and massive population exodus there. In a statement read out by its President, Jamsheed Marker (Pakistan), the Council invited the parties to report to the Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) on their actions in that respect. It warned that the situation could lead very quickly to a further humanitarian disaster and endanger regional stability.

The Council urged the resumption of the political process in the framework of the Arusha Peace Agreement, and called on the countries of the region, the Secretary-General and his Special Representative, to contribute

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actively to it. The Council reaffirmed the humanitarian nature of the secure area in the south-west of Rwanda and demanded that all concerned fully respect it.

The statement urged Member States, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations to mobilize all available resources to provide humanitarian assistance to civilians in distress. It also called on Member States to provide the necessary contributions in order to ensure the deployment of the expanded UNAMIR in the immediate future.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadaka Ogata, today appealed to the Rwandan parties to ensure the safety of displaced people so that they would stay in Rwanda where aid could reach them. She said the UNHCR was struggling to cope with a massive new influx of Rwandese refugees into Zaire. Since last night, 100,000 people had crossed into the border town of Goma and more were streaming towards the region to escape the fighting as it spread into Government strongholds in northwestern Rwanda.

A United Nations spokesman said that appeals for relief support for Rwanda had not met with a generous response. Only $1.4 million had been received after a recent appeal for $11 million. He noted, however, that the Department of Humanitarian Affairs had released $20 million for Rwanda from an emergency revolving fund.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, José Ayala Lasso, today strongly condemned the expulsion of the International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH) by the de facto authorities earlier this week. He told correspondents at Headquarters that his Office was concerned at the situation there, and that he would be discussing the matter with Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today.

Mr. Ayala Lasso cited the case of Rwanda as proof of the need for a rapid United Nations response to human rights violations. He had begun consulting with United Nations officials and non-governmental organizations on what action to take as soon as the crisis had erupted. He had also travelled to the country, contacted the Government and the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF), and appealed for an end to the violence. In addition, the Human Rights Commission had appointed a Special Rapporteur for Rwanda. It was important to establish responsibility for the massacres there and to name those involved, he added.

The United Nations received some 200,000 communications about rights violations each year, Mr. Ayala Lasso went on to say. The volume of those communications had increased dramatically since the establishment of the Human Rights Hotline earlier this year. It was important that the Organization have

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the capacity to respond to them, he concluded.

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Although the fighting in Yemen has ended, a lasting solution to the country's problems will only be achieved through political dialogue between the two sides, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report to the Security Council dated 12 July, he said there appeared to be enough common ground between them to initiate such a dialogue in a spirit of mutual respect. He offered to use his good offices and to extend all possible help as soon as the parties agreed to his role in the process.

The Secretary-General said that there had been disturbing reports of looting and lawlessness in Aden since the fighting ended, and that firm action was urgently needed there. Meanwhile, Special Envoy Lakhdar Brahimi had been informed by the authorities in Sana'a that the Army would soon be withdrawn from the Governorate of Aden.

The people of Yemen expected international aid in the reconstruction of their country, the Secretary-General went on to say. There had been many casualties in the fighting, and severe damage to water systems, power stations and oil refineries. For its part, the international community expected the Yemeni leaders to urgently address the problems at the root of the crisis and to ensure a lasting solution and stability.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that an expanded and strengthened United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) be authorized for six months. In a report to the Security Council dated 12 July, he proposed that UNOMIG undertake the following tasks: monitor and verify the implementation of the Agreement on a Cease-fire and Separation of Forces signed in Moscow in May; observe the operation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) forces; verify that troops and heavy military equipment were no longer in the security or restricted-weapons zones; monitor the withdrawal of Georgian troops beyond Abkhazia's frontiers; and investigate violations of the Agreement.

The Secretary-General said he would make recommendations on the number of military obervers needed for the Mission after determining what Governments would provide. He expressed confidence that the first joint venture between the United Nations and the CIS would help promote peace and security. UNOMIG's expanded mandate would be another example of the new cooperation in peace-keeping between the Organization and regional alliances.

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The Special Committee on Decolonization yesterday heard reports of continuing human rights abuses and the suppression of free speech by Indonesian authorities in East Timor. The representative of Human Rights Watch Asia said arbitrary detention and torture were routine, and freedom of

association and assembly were nonexistent. She said Indonesia deserved credit for allowing the recent visit of the Commission on Human Rights Special Rapporteur on summary and arbitrary executions. However, in advance of high-profile visits of foreigners to East Timor, the Indonesian authorities made extensive security preparations, including the rounding up of potential trouble makers.

A representative of the Revolutionary Front for the Independence of East Timor (FRETILIN) said that Governments of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) ignored the plight of East Timor. FRETILIN opposed international arms sales to Indonesia and was concerned about the sale of warships and warplanes by European and American companies. Indonesia said that the Committee's consideration of East Timor was unwarranted because the Territory was a province of Indonesia with rights and obligations equal to those of other provinces.

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